

Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Miami Laboratory
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

January 26, 2005

TO: Wayne Witzell,
Protected Resources Branch

FROM: Dennis Lee,
SEFSC Observer Coordinator

SUBJECT: Longline gear Incidental Take summary for quarter 4, 2004.

The Miami Laboratory Pelagic Observer Program (POP) is providing you with a summary report of the incidental take of marine mammals, turtles, and birds that have been recorded by observers aboard longline vessels for October 1 to December 31, 2004. The POP completed an overall coverage rate of 7.2% of selected pelagic longline fleet for this quarter (Table 1). During the quarter, observers recorded to 22 sea turtles (13-leatherbacks-alive; 9-loggerheads-alive), in addition six (6) marine mammals (2-Risso's dolphin-alive; 4-pilot whale-alive) and one (1) seabird (1-species unknown-dead).

Enclosed you will find the original Sea Turtle Life History (STLH) forms submitted by observers during the regular longline coverage. The POP will maintain copies of the STLH forms in our files until you have completed your data review or entry. I strongly recommend that you return the original STLH forms with any changes (in red and initialed) to the POP staff when you have completed your review.

In addition to the POP reporting of Protected Resource (PR) species recorded during observed longline fishing, observers have been requested to inspect the turtle handling and dehooking gear available aboard the vessels as a requirement of the 2004 Biological Opinion (BO). As a requirement of the BO tasking for the Miami Laboratory, I am providing you with copies of the Miami PR Turtle Gear check list form either filled out by the observer or by POP staff during debriefing from two (2) third quarter selected vessels and 16 fourth quarter selected vessels. A PDF file will be created and will be posted on the SEFSC-POP secured website.. Although it is not clear how this information will be processed, the originals will remain on file in the observer office, room 314. Finally, neither the Turtle Take Estimates (TTE) nor the Net Mortality Ratio (NMR) mentioned in the 2004 BO are provided as our program staffing does not have the expertise to conduct these analyses.

Attachments

Table of the Incidental Take summary for fourth quarter of 2004 by geographical area and sets observed; original STLF forms and associated turtle photographs for regular longline coverage; and copies of the Turtle Gear check list forms.

cc: Cheryl Brown; Gerry Scott, Jim Bohnsack (cover letters only).

Table 1: Percent coverage (by sets),the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for October 1 - December 31, 2004. (A=Alive, D=Dead, LB=Leatherback,LH=Loggerhead, U=unknown).

AREA	REQUIRED		TURTLES				MAMMALS		BIRDS	
	TOTAL SETS OBSERVED	8% COVERAGE	A	D	LB/LH/U		A	D	A	D
CAR-1	0	0	0/ 0/ 0	0			0	0	0	0
GOM-2	71(6%)	88	1/ 2/ 0	0			0	0	0	0
FEC-3	6(5%)	10	0/ 0/ 0	0			0	0	0	0
SAB-4	5(4%)	10	0/ 2/ 0	0			0	0	0	0
MAB-5	36(9%)	31	9/ 5/ 0	0			6	0	0	0
NEC-6	3(2%)	10	1/ 0/ 0	0			0	0	0	0
<u>NED-7</u>	<u>22(14%)</u>	13	<u>2/ 0/ 0</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	1
TOTAL	143(7+%)	160	13/ 9/ 0	0			6	0	0	1

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
CAR	0
GOM	51,048
FEC	1,523
SAB	2,675
MAB	32,814
NEC	3,720
NED	23,668
TOTAL	115,448